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DERWENT-WEEK: 199639
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TITLE: Wicketted fillable plastic bag for holding a loaf of bread - is sealed after filling and is easily openable at other end by user

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PATENT-ASSIGNEE: BORDEN NZ LTD[BORD]

PRIORITY-DATA: 1992NZ-0243745 (July 28, 1992)

PATENT-FAMILY:

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| NZ 243745 A | August 27, 1996 | N/A | 000 | B65D 033/36 |
| AU 9344229 A | February 3, 1994 | N/A | 017 | B65D 033/36 |
| AU 666023 B | January 25, 1996 | N/A | 000 | B65D 033/36 |

APPLICATION-DATA:

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| NZ 243745A | N/A | 1992NZ-0243745 | July 28, 1992 |
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ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: AU 9344229A

BASIC-ABSTRACT: A wicketted plastic bag 1 formed from two plies of plastic sheet for holding a loaf of bread comprises an open wicketted end sealable after filling by choking, heat sealing etc. comprises at the distal end a gusset closing the end and having within the gusset a partial line of weakening e.g. by perforation etc. for facilitating the opening at that end by breaking away one ply from the wicket support by a user to gain access to the distal end of a sliced loaf having slices of different thickness from those at the proximal end.

USE/ADVANTAGE - Plastic bag allows filling with a sliced loaf etc. and sealing of filling and allows user easily to access bag at either end.

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.1/9

TITLE-TERMS:

FILL PLASTIC BAG HOLD LOAF BREAD SEAL AFTER FILL EASY OPEN END USER

DERWENT-CLASS: A92 D11 Q32 Q34

CPI-CODES: A12-P02; D01-A04; D01-A05; D01-B;

POLYMER-MULTIPUNCH-CODES-AND-KEY-SERIALS:

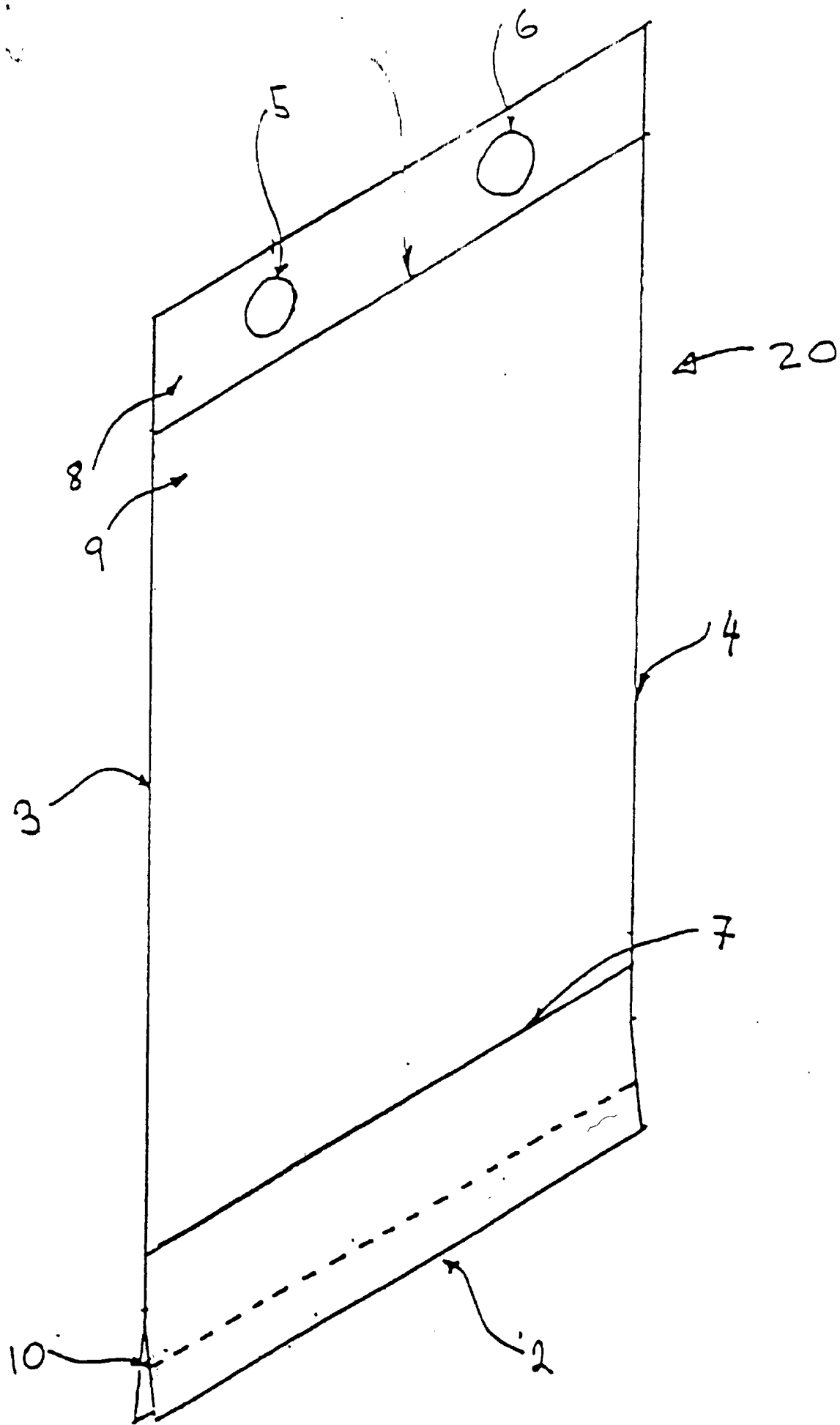
Key Serials: 0231 2454 2457 2513 2522 2629 2777 2780 3228 3258

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SECONDARY-ACC-NO:

CPI Secondary Accession Numbers: C1994-038388

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243745

Attacks
to #
7

NEW ZEALAND
PATENTS ACT, 1953

No.: 243745

Date: 28 July 1992

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

"Improvements in or Relating to a Plastics Bag"

We, BORDEN (NZ) LIMITED, a company duly incorporated under the laws of New Zealand of 100 Carbine Road, Mt Wellington, Auckland, New Zealand hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:-

PATENT OFFICE

The present invention relates to improvements in and or relating to a plastics bag, a wrapping for a loaf of bread (whether cut or uncut) formed by such a bag and related means and methods.

In recent times, bread has been displayed on Supermarket shelves in plastic wrappings which sometimes allow the viewing of some of the contents. The bread being so displaying is sometimes fully cut but often is uncut.

Traditionally the bags have taken the form of a plastics bag into which the bread has been loaded with the open end of the bag then having been sealed typically by a wire, plastic tag or adhesive tape wrapping after the mouth opening has been choked and/or twisted. In some other forms heat sealing and/or adhesive arrangements may be utilised.

Such existing bag technology has a disadvantage, however, in that it encourages the opening of the container, subsequent to purchase, from the open bag end only.

The present invention is directed to a bag and bread wrappings and related means and methods which will provide an alternative to these existing forms and, particularly, will allow the selective opening of either of the ends or both the ends.

In a first aspect, the present invention consists in a plastics bag having an open and closed end, said bag being of a size to accommodate a loaf of bread said open end to be closed by choking, sealing or the like and said bag being provided distal from the open end with at least one line of partial weakness which will facilitate the opening of the closed end of the bag.

Preferably said line of partial weakness is at or adjacent the closed end.

Preferably, the closed end is in the form of a gusseted bottom and preferably, the at least partial line of weakening is within the gusseted bottom.

In yet a further aspect, the present invention consists in a wicketted, fillable plastics bag having an open and closed end suitable for containing a loaf of bread formed from two plies, the open end of the bag having one of the plies adapted to be received by and to break away from a wicket support during, or subsequent to, a filling process and there is provided, distal from said open end, at least one line of partial weakness which is sufficiently strong not to open during the intended filling procedure

but which, subsequent to filling, provides for a facility whereby the bag can be opened at a location on the bag in preference to or as well as the end distal from said closed end.

Preferably, said at least one line of partial weakness is provided at or adjacent the closed end.

In yet a further aspect, the present invention consists in a bread containing package of the loaf of cut bread having thickness of one thickness at one end and another thickness at, or towards, the other end, said package having said one end open and said other end closed, said one end closeable by choking, sealing or the like wherein there is provided, distal from said one end, at least one line of partial weakness which in use will facilitate the opening of the otherwise closed bag at that end thereby enabling the user to access either said one end or said other end.

Preferred forms of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bag which is perforated inside the gusset in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the bag in Figure 1 in a filled condition;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the bag of Figure 1 in a filled and closed condition;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a plastic bag which is perforated on the outside of the gusset;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the bag of Figure 4 in a filled condition;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the bag of Figure 4 in a filled and closed condition;

Figure 7 is a perspective view of a bag which is perforated across the bag front in accordance with the invention;

Figure 8 is a perspective view of the bag of Figure 7 in a filled condition;

Figure 9 is a perspective view of the bag of Figure 7 in a filled and closed condition.

The bag 20 has an open end 1 and a closed end 2. The bag is constructed of two plies of wrapping. Wrappings are sealed on both sides 3 and 4. The open end 1 of the bag preferably, has holes 5 and 6. These enable the bag to be secured on a wicket arrangement. The closed end 2 preferably, has a section of wrapping folded so as to form a gusset 7. The wrapping forms a front side of the bag 9 and a back side 8. The bag contains a line of partial weakness, such as, for example, perforations 10.

In one form of the invention the line of partial weakening 10 is inside the gusset, see Figures 1, 2 and 3.

In one variant of the invention, the line 10 is across the bag front 9 outside the gusset 7 as shown in Figures 4, 5 and 6.

In yet another variant of the invention, the line of partial weakening 10 lies at or towards the middle of the bag front 9 as shown in Figures 7, 8 and 9.

Sometimes bread is marketed in a sliced form and one particular sliced form that has found some market acceptance has been the so-called "thick'n'thin" form of cut where that thickness that a user wishes to enjoy fresh is accessed first and any bread that is not consumed while it remains fresh is at a more desirable thickness for toast. While such pre-cut bread forms have been known and have required special packaging when packaging was by means of wax paper the recent trends towards the use of plastics as the wrapping has seen the demise of this favoured pre-cut form. The present invention provides a bag and related methods and means which should see a renewed interest in this particular pre-cut bread form.

In the preferred form of the present invention the wrapping is preferably of a plastics material such as, for example, a food grade plastic.

Preferably the wrapping is in the form of a bag capable of being filled on a wicket in a conventional manner, i.e. the bag can be opened if desired by hand or by an air blast while being retained on a wicket.

The use of the invention will now be described.

The open end of the bag 1 is attached to a wicket by means of holes 5 and 6. The bag is opened, either by hand or blast of air, while being retained on the wicket. The bag is filled with its contents, this is shown in Figures 2, 5 and 8. The bag is

ejected from the wicket by means of application of a pressure which causes the holes 5 and 6 to tear through. The open end 1 of the bag is closed by choking and/or sealing. This is shown in Figures 3, 6 and 9.

It can be seen that the partial weakening or perforation provide a means for the user to access the contents of the bag at or towards the closed end. Furthermore, it can be seen that choked or closed off wicketed end can be accessed by the breaking of seal, removal of the wire tape or tag in the convention manner.

Thus, the invention provides a means of allowing the user to obtain easy access to the contents which are at or towards the wicketed end of the bag 1 or, alternatively, at or towards the closed end 2.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A plastics bag having an open and closed end, said bag being of a size to accommodate a loaf of bread, said open end to be closed by choking, sealing or the like and said bag being provided, distal from the open end with at least one line of partial weakness which will facilitate the opening of the closed end of the bag.
2. A bag of claim 1 wherein said weakening is by perforation.
3. A bag of claims 1 or 2 wherein said line of partial weakness is at or adjacent the closed end.
4. A bag of any one of the preceding claims wherein the closed end is in the form of a gusseted bottom.
5. A bag of claim 4 wherein the at least line of partial weakness is within the gusseted bottom.
6. A bag substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one or more of the accompanying drawings.
7. A wicketted, fillable plastics bag having an open and closed end suitable for containing a loaf of bread formed from two plies, the open end of the bag having one of the plies adapted to be received by and to break away from a wicket support during, or subsequent to, a filling process and there is provided, distal from said open end, at least one line of partial weakness which is sufficiently strong not to open during the intended filling procedure but which, subsequent to filling, provides for a facility whereby the bag can be opened at a location on the bag in preference to or as well as the end distal from said closed end.
8. A bag of claim 7 wherein said weakness is by perforation.
9. A bag of claims 7 or 8 wherein said at least one line of partial weakness is provided at or adjacent the closed end.
10. A bread containing package of a loaf of cut bread having thickness of one thickness at one end and another thickness at, or towards, the other end, said package having said one end open and said other end closed, said one end closeable by choking, sealing or the like wherein there is provided, distal from said one end, at least one line of partial weakness which in use will facilitate the opening of the otherwise

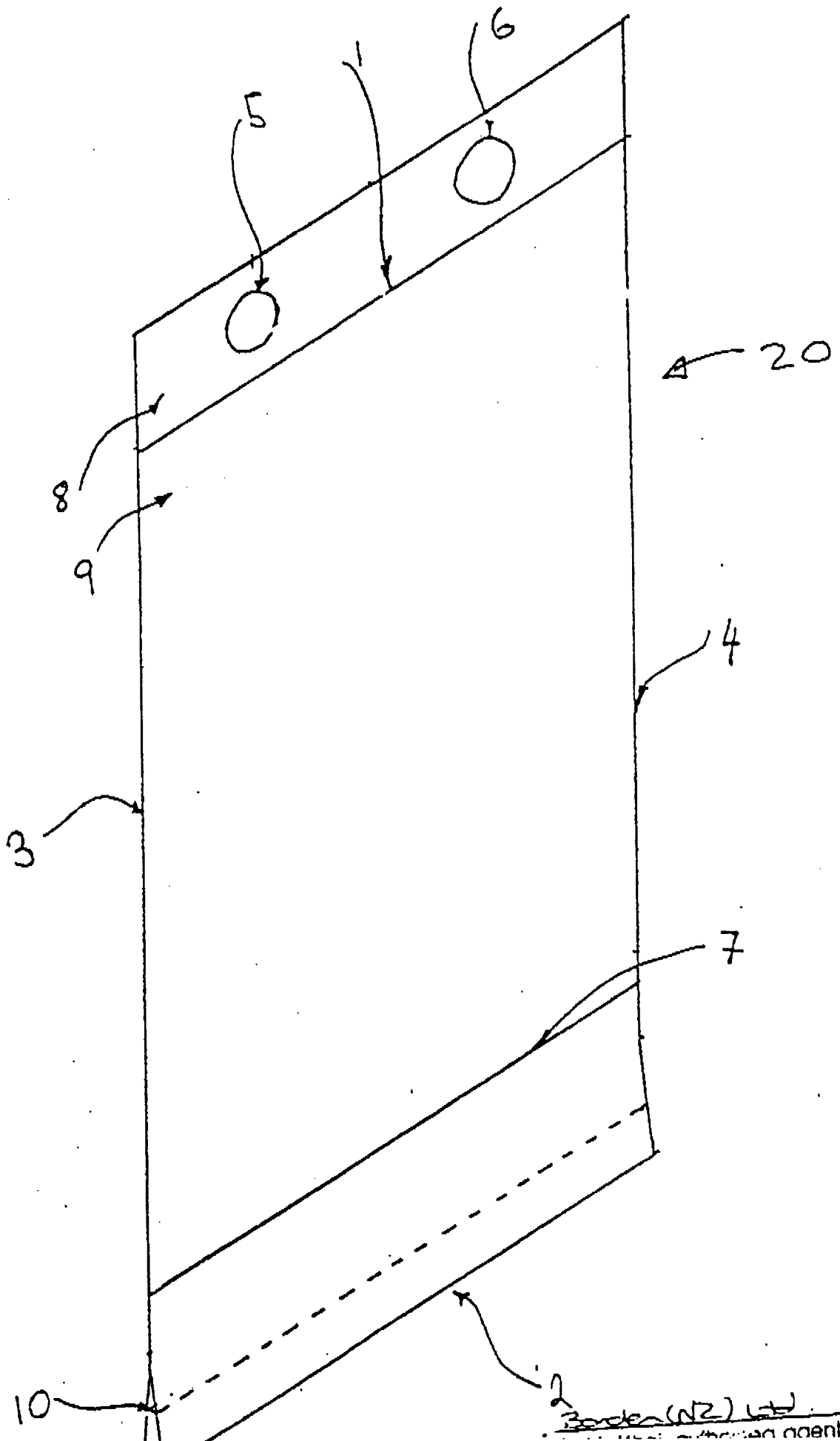
closed bag at that end thereby enabling the user to access either said one end or said other end.

11. A package according to claim 10 wherein the loaf of cut bread is contained within the bag of any one of claims 2-9 and, wherein the open end of the bag is closed.

12. A package as claimed in claim 10 substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one or more of the accompanying drawings.

DATED THIS 17th DAY OF *Nov*, 190*6*
A.J. PARK & SON
PER *[Signature]*
AGENTS FOR THE APPLICANT





Borden (N2) Ltd.
 Patent Agent

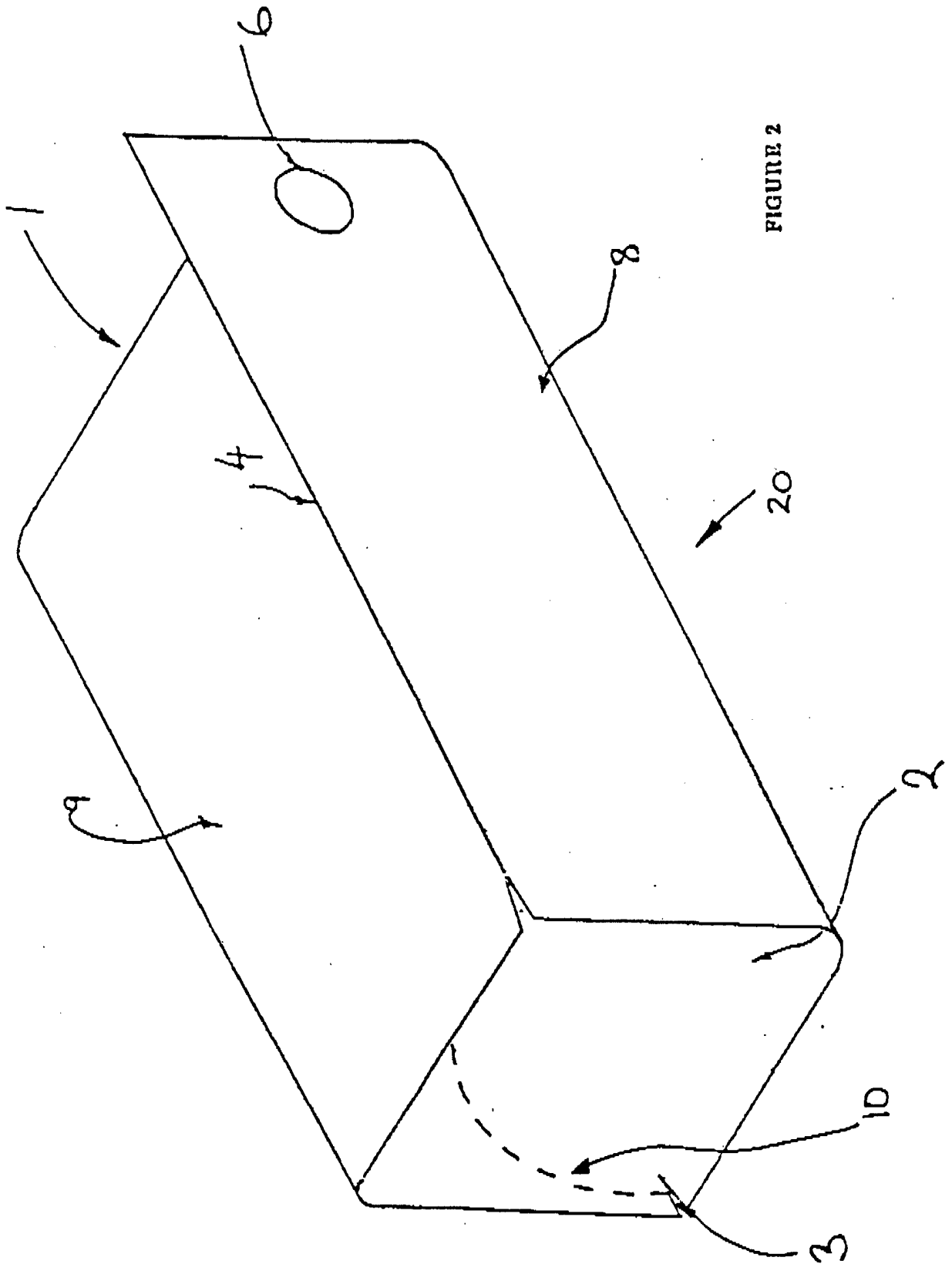


FIGURE 2

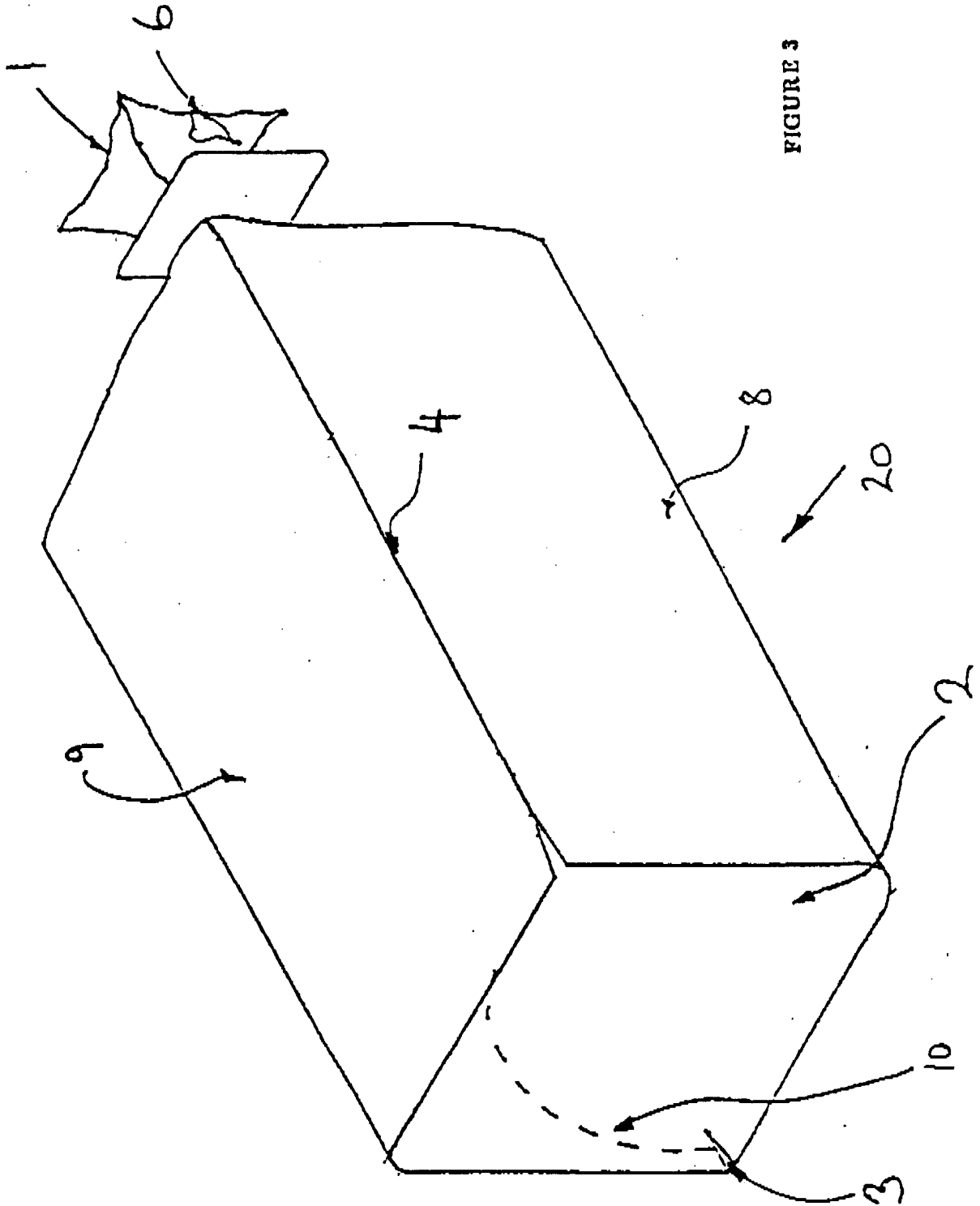


FIGURE 3

Bode (N2) 131
By his/their authorized agent
DANIEL O. CONI

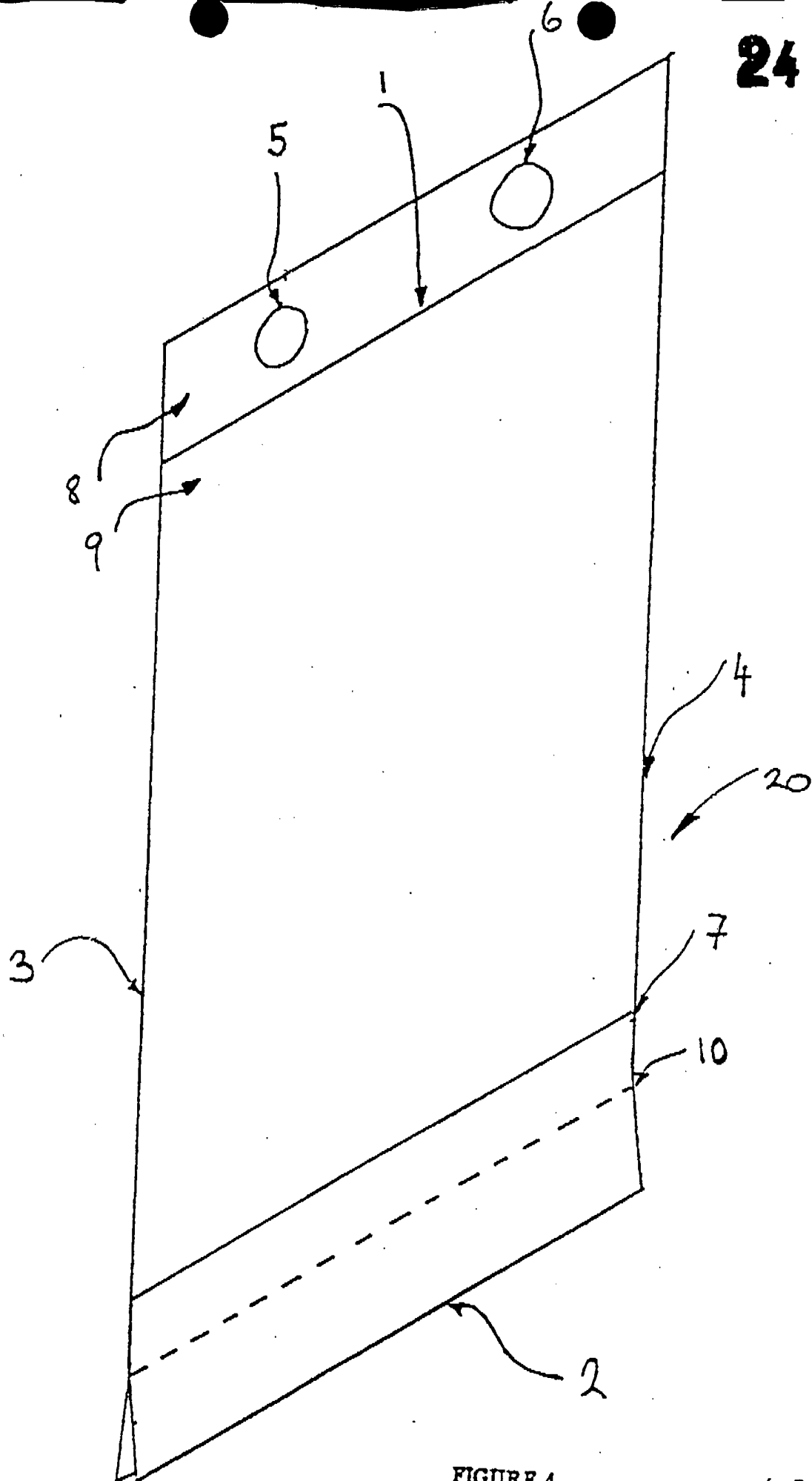
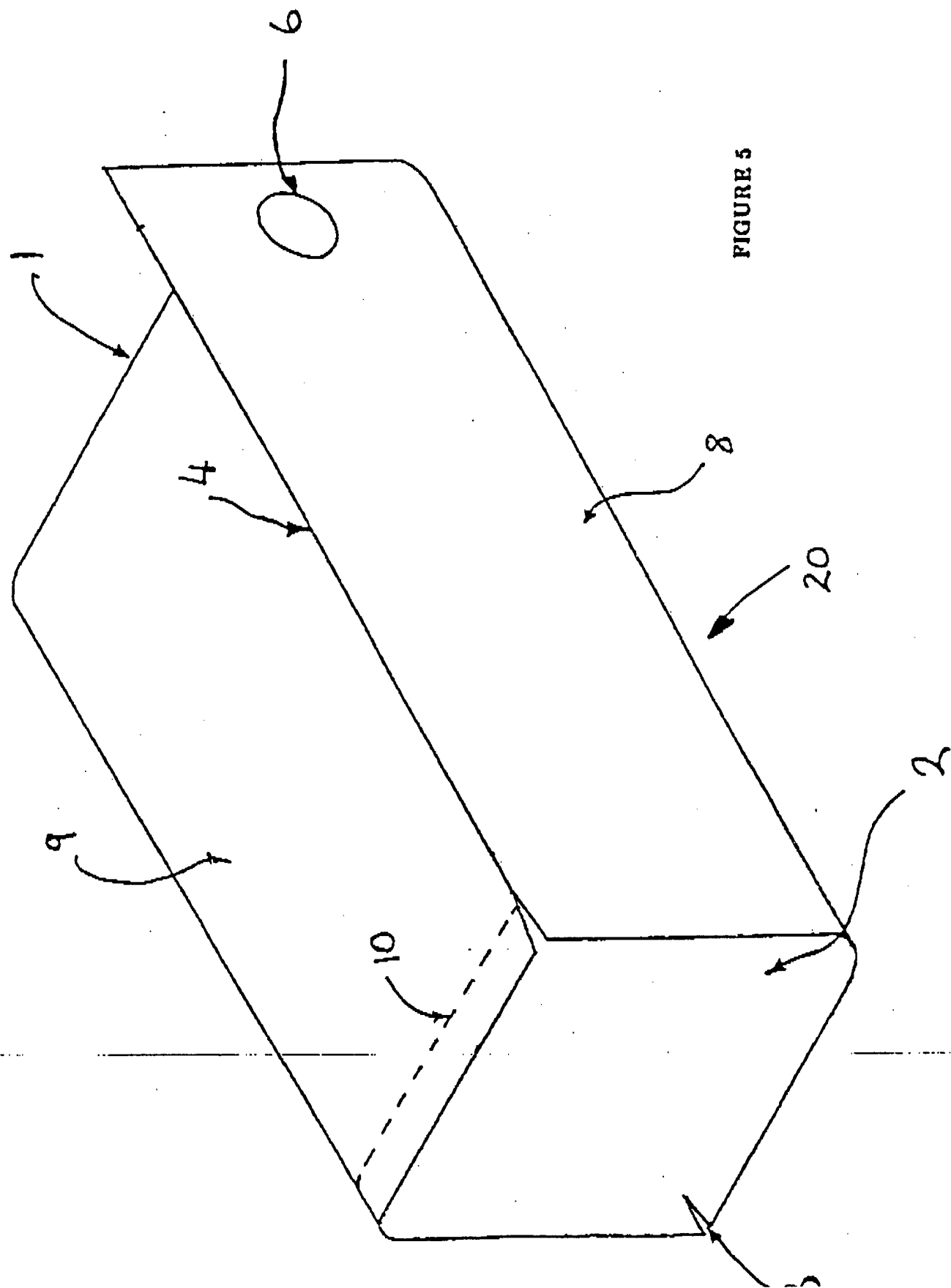


FIGURE 4

FIGURE 5



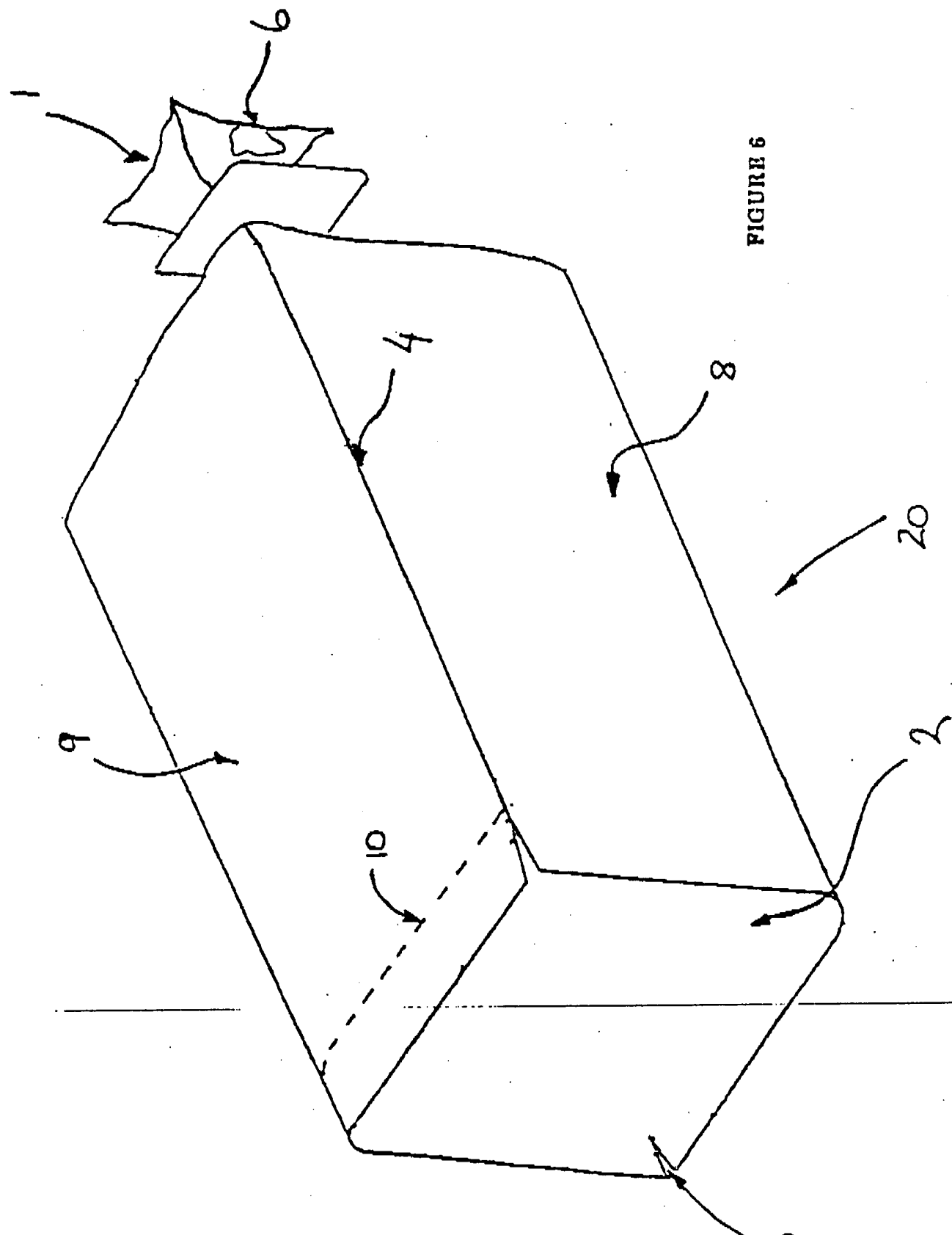


FIGURE 6

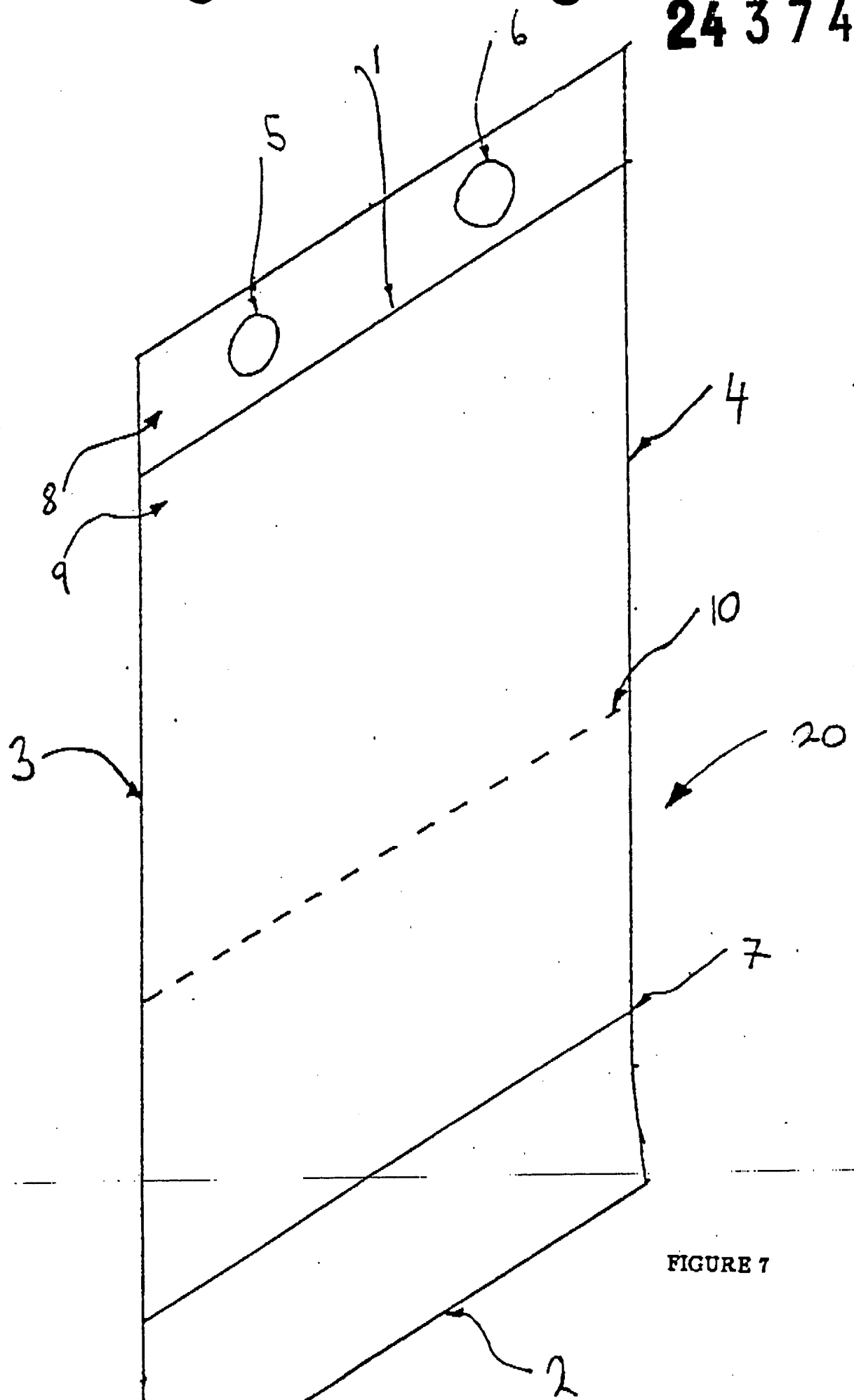


FIGURE 7

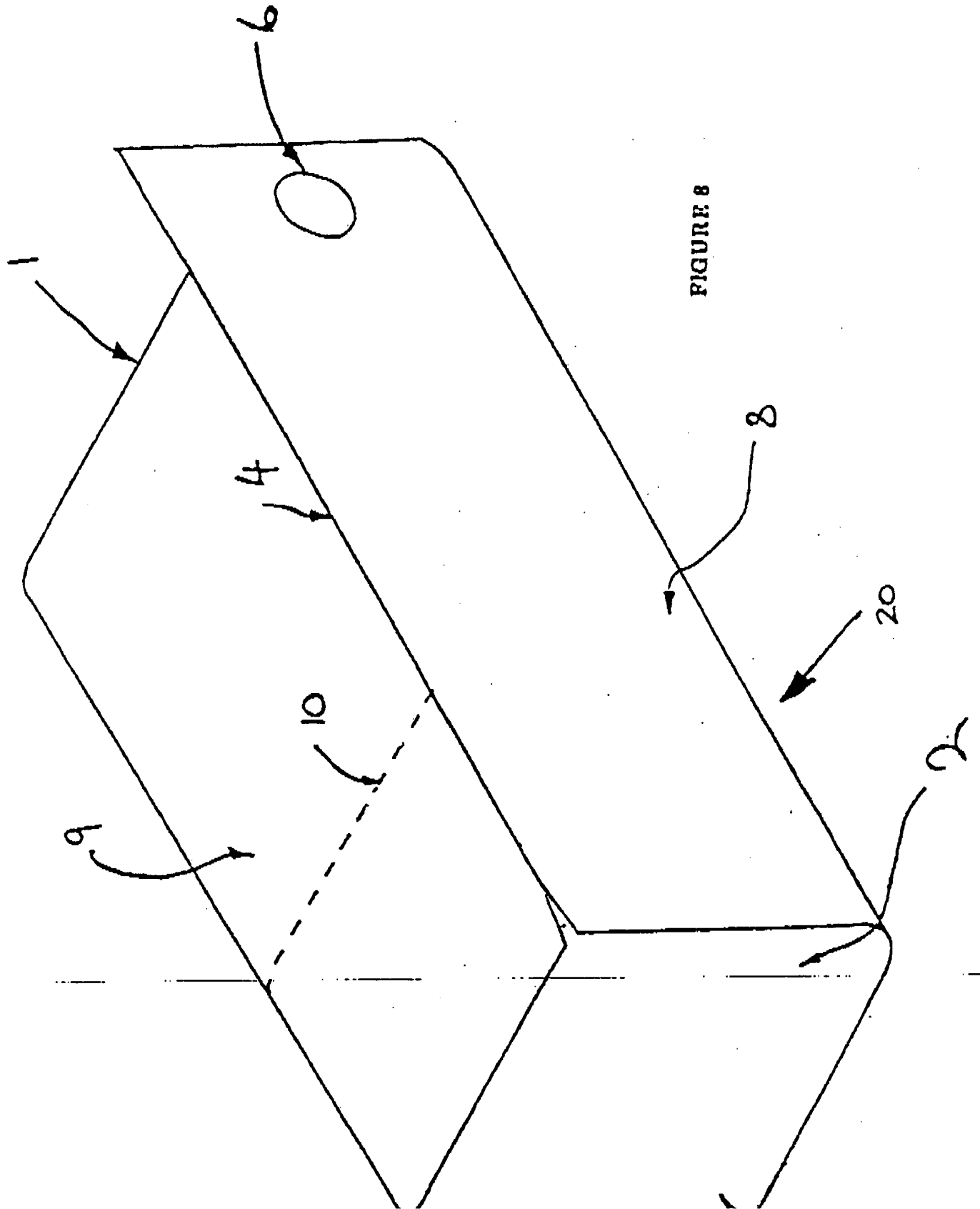


FIGURE 8

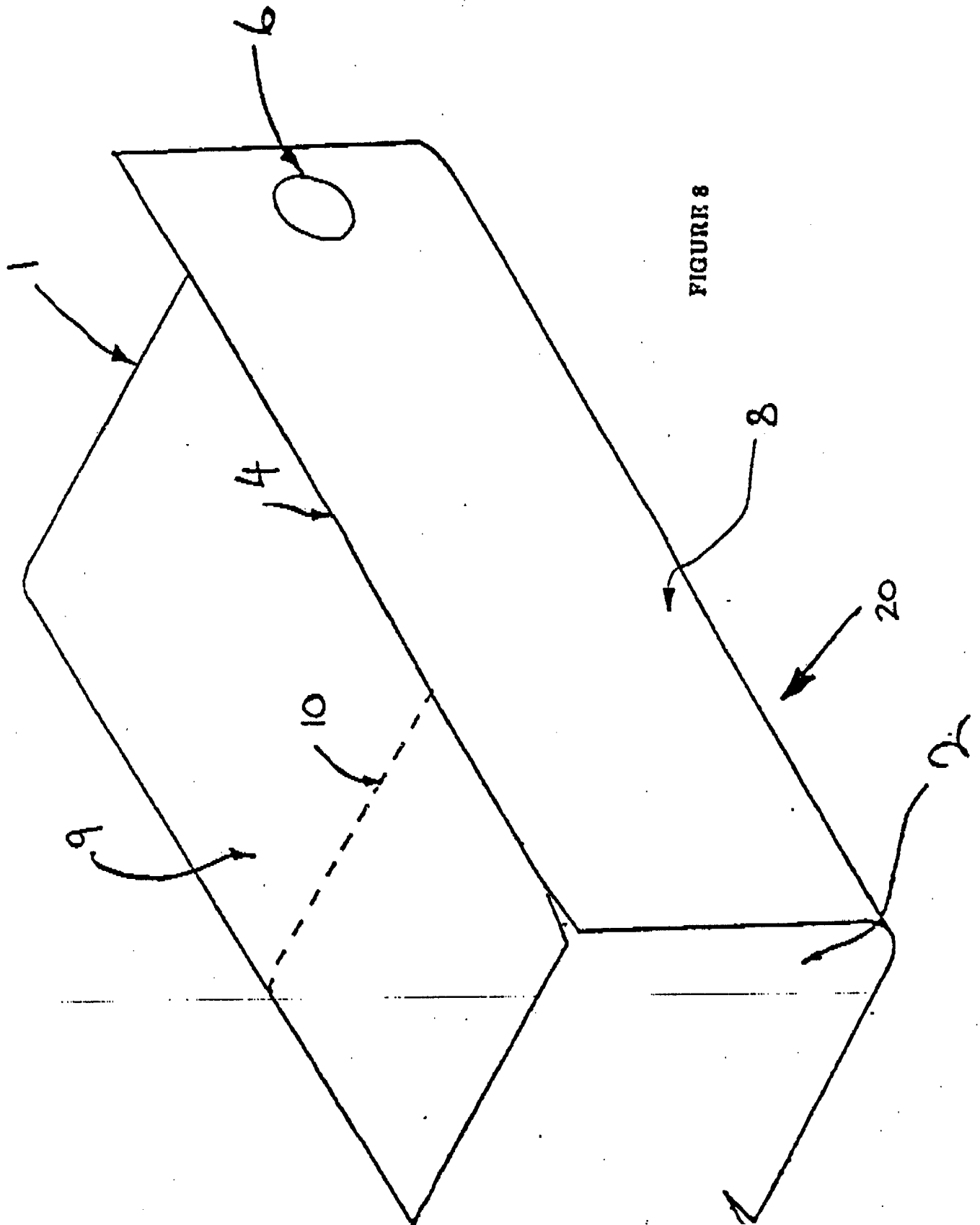


FIGURE 8

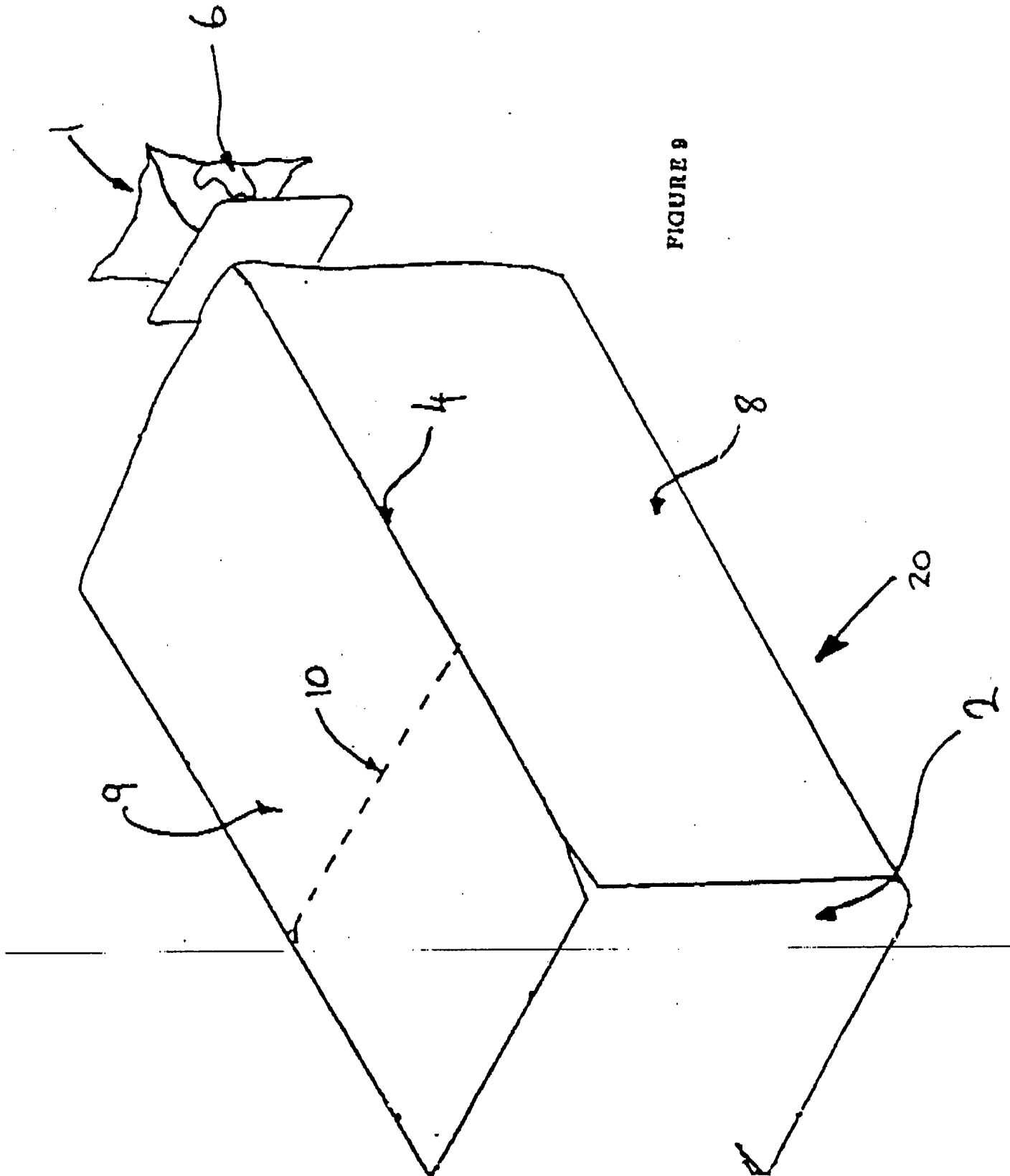


FIGURE 9